RELUCTANT REPRESENTATIVES

BLACKFELLA BUREAUCRATS SPEAK IN AUSTRALIA'S NORTH

Canis Xavier was a fireman in the early Northern Territory public service under Commonwealth administration before Northern Territory self-government in 1978. This frontispiece photograph is reproduced from the Annual Report of the Northern Territory of Australia 1965–66 (Department of Territories 1968: 60) with the permission of the Commonwealth Government of Australia.

Photographing him again, a later annual report claimed that Canis Xavier was 'the first Aboriginal in the Northern Territory made a permanent fire officer' (Department of the Interior 1971: 40–1).

Photographic reproduction by Christine Cummings, Canberra.

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This work is dedicated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public servants and their communities, for a future in which they have greater choice of representation.

And to my brother, who thought deeply and imaginatively.

John Robert Ganter
1958–2016
Vale

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